

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the applications.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A piezoelectric ceramic composition comprising:

a phase comprising, as a main component, lead zirconate titanate having a perovskite structure; and

an Al-containing phase,

wherein:

said main component is represented by a composition formula of $\text{Pb}_\alpha[(\text{Mn}_{1/3}\text{Nb}_{2/3})_x\text{Ti}_y\text{Zr}_z]\text{O}_3$ (wherein $0.97 \leq \alpha < 1.00$, $0.04 \leq x \leq 0.16$, $0.50 < y \leq 0.58$, $0.32 \leq z \leq 0.41$) and

said piezoelectric ceramic composition comprises Al_2O_3 in an amount of ~~0.15~~ 0.6 to 15.0 wt%.

Claims 2 - 4 (cancelled).

5. (original) The piezoelectric ceramic composition according to claim 1, wherein:

said piezoelectric ceramic composition is composed of a sintered body comprising grains and grain boundaries exist between said grains; and

Al_2O_3 is contained in said grains and is precipitated in said grain boundaries.

Claim 6 (cancelled).

7. (original) The piezoelectric ceramic composition according to claim 1, wherein:

$|\Delta F_0|$ which is the absolute value of the rate of change in oscillation frequency F_0 thereof, before and after application of a thermal shock, is 0.10% or less; and the three-point flexural strength σ_{b3} thereof is 160 N/mm^2 or more.

Claims 8 - 18 (cancelled).

19. (previously presented) The piezoelectric ceramic composition according to claim 1, wherein:

said piezoelectric ceramic composition comprises Al_2O_3 in an amount of 0.6 to 5.0 wt%.

20. (previously presented) The piezoelectric ceramic composition according to claim 1, wherein:

said piezoelectric ceramic composition comprises Al_2O_3 in an amount of 0.6 to 1.5 wt%.